

REGIONS REVIEW

WEST COAST

NO CONTEST

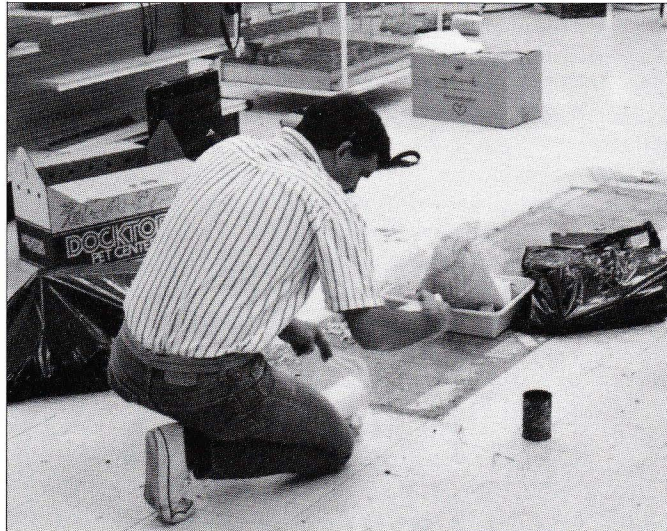
The former owner of a Docktor Pet Center in Sacramento, Calif., has been found guilty of failing to provide adequate nutrition and humane treatment for animals in his care.

Warren Ruben pleaded no contest to three counts of misdemeanor pet-store code violations, the result of a year-long investigation by West Coast Regional Investigator Kurt Lapham and the Department of Consumer and Environmental Affairs of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Ruben was fined \$1,500 and sentenced to perform 150 hours of community service. He is prohibited from dealing in pet sales, including breeding his own animals, for three years.

NEVADA RAID

A suspected major dogfighting operation was shut down in mid-April when Pershing County, Nev., sheriff's deputies, assisted by local, state, and federal law-enforcement and narcotics agents, executed a search warrant on the property of James A. Hand, of Imlay.

The raid was the first of its kind in Nevada. It resulted in one of the largest seizures of fighting dogs in the nation to date. Assisting in the action were agents from the Tri-County Narcotics Task Force, Pershing County sheriff's office, the HSUS West Coast Regional Office, the Nevada



HSUS investigator Kurt Lapham examines evidence seized during the investigation of a Sacramento, Calif., area pet store. The owner was fined and sentenced to community service.

Humane Society, the Humboldt County sheriff's office, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, animal-control officers from Pershing and Humboldt counties, and the Nevada State fire marshal's office.

The agents seized thirty-six pit-bull terriers, a permanent dogfighting pit, scores of underground dogfighting publications, and other paraphernalia as evidence. Mr. Hand

was arrested for keeping a place where illegal dogfights are staged, keeping dogs for the purpose of fighting, and other violations.

Investigators believe the raid in Imlay will yield a gold mine of information on dogfighters all over the country. "We found leads on key players in other states," said West Coast Regional Investigator Eric Sakach, who assisted in the raid. "Nevada is one of the



Pit-bull terriers seized at an Imlay, Nev., dogfighting operation lived chained to vehicle axles imbedded in the ground.

few states where dogfighting is still just a misdemeanor, which makes it particularly attractive to dogfighters fearful of felony penalties."

IN THE NORTHWEST

Kurt Lapham recently conducted a workshop on investigation techniques for about fifty officers at the Oregon Animal Control Officer's Conference in Eugene. From there, he went to the Annual Conference of the Washington Federation of Humane Societies in Kennewick, where he met with association members.

TAKE YOUR PICK

The HSUS's Animal Control Academy will be coming to the Red Lion Inn/Sea Tac in Seattle, Wash., July 10-21, 1989. The Nugget Courtyard Lodge will be the site of another session October 9-20, 1989, in Reno/Sparks, Nev.

Interested in attending either session? Contact Bill Smith at The Animal Control Academy, 5126-A McFarland Blvd., East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 or call (205) 752-0058.

THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW

A bill in the California legislature has been amended to make the eating of dogs or cats a misdemeanor. A.B. 1842 would make it illegal to import, own, possess, buy, sell, or kill a dog or cat with the sole intent of using it for food. This legislation arose from a Long Beach, Calif., case which a judge dismissed, suggesting that the issue be addressed legislatively. ■

APRIL PROTEST

About thirty members of The HSUS, Humane Society of Greater Kansas City, and People for Animal Rights picketed the University of Kansas Medical Center (UKMC) in April to bring to public attention the unnecessary suffering of animals in biomedical research.

The primary goal of this group, which included Midwest Regional Director Wendell Maddox, was to gain access to the UKMC research labs and representation on the facility's animal care and use committee, which reviews protocol for animal research.

The group vowed to continue to work towards gaining access to the facility and representation on the committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In Missouri, efforts to legalize pari-mutuel dog racing continued when bills were introduced by Rep. Ronnie DePasco and Sen. Henry Panethiere. For the fourth straight year, due to strong opposition from The HSUS and other animal-protection groups, these bills were defeated.

Unfortunately, other defeated measures included legislation to require convictions for those involved in cockfighting, a new law to require state licensing and inspection of commercial breeding operations (puppy mills), and a measure which would limit



Animal protectionists from the greater Kansas City area protest against unnecessary animal research.

sources for research animals to purpose-bred only.

In Iowa, an effort to reduce the state's expenditures for controlling illegal drug use and veterinary care for race horses, requested by the Iowa Racing

Commission, fortunately, met with defeat. The bill would have eliminated the present law requiring horses racing on drugs to be so listed in the racing program; eliminated the need for a veterinarian to test

for the presence of other drugs if Lasix were found; and dropped the requirement to keep records on horses determined to be sick, unsafe, unsound, or unfit to race.

In Nebraska, a bill was passed that creates a statute requiring registration and proper confinement of dogs determined to be dangerous or vicious.

FOX SPEAKS

Michael W. Fox, vice president of The HSUS, spoke at the third annual "Animal Awareness Dinner," sponsored by the Capitol Humane Society, in Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Maddox, who also attended the gathering, praised the Capitol Humane Society's work and its Lincoln operation. ■

STUDENT'S CHOICE

New Jersey Assemblywomen Maureen Ogden and Lisa Randall are sponsoring A. 4129, a bill that allows students to choose an alternative to classroom dissection.

Representatives of the Associated Humane Societies, the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, and The HSUS testified in favor of the bill.

In the first New Jersey case of its kind, Maggie McCool has asked education commissioner Saul Cooperman to stop her school board from lowering her marks in biology because she refused to do dissections. Ms. McCool is a vegetarian



Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCool and daughter Maggie join Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Nina Austenberg at the hearing on A. 4129.

who believes killing or dissecting animals is wrong.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

A workshop sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office is planned for September 11 and 12 at the Allentown Hilton

in Allentown, Pa. Sessions on rabies, shelter procedures, New Jersey's spay/neuter program, fund-raising, and satanic rituals are planned. For further information, contact the HSUS Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Bartley Square, 270 Route 206, Flanders, NJ 07836. ■

MARCHING FORWARD

The Southeast Regional Office is finding widespread legislative support in Florida for a number of bills, including one that would make Florida the third state in the country with felony penalties in its general animal-cruelty law. The proposal calls for those who torture an animal with intent to cause intense pain, physical suffering, or death to face a maximum sentence of five years in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine.

We developed and lobbied extensively for another bill that greatly expands health requirements for dogs and cats purchased from pet stores and in-state breeders.

Yet another bill would clarify and strengthen the current law regulating the use of animals in grades kindergarten through twelve and limit the dissection of dead animals to a select number of advanced students. A student could be excused from participating in any dissection with a written note from a parent or guardian.

A SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST

Columbia, S.C., will soon have the state's first low-cost spay/neuter clinic. The city is providing the Humane SPCA with a facility rent-free. The clinic should open its doors shortly before the city's new differential-licensing law goes into effect in January 1990. The ordinance makes it economically beneficial for owners to spay/neuter their pets, charging



Supporters of a tuna boycott rally at the Florida State Capitol to save dolphins from needless death.

lower license fees for sterilized animals.

BOYCOTT TUNA

A campaign is underway in Florida to publicize the killing of dolphins by tuna fishermen

and promote a boycott of tuna products. The HSUS's southeast office joined the Tallahassee Earth Island Center in May in a rally at the state capitol. More than sixty people participated, asking the governor to stop the purchase of tuna products by all state institutions. ■

DEATH IN VERMONT

New England Regional Program Coordinator Frank Ribaudo responded in April to a report that twenty-eight veal calves had been found dead behind a barn in Richford, Vt. The calves, part of a franchised veal-calf farming operation, had died over a six-month period. He found evidence of antibiotics, used to keep animals raised in small stalls and almost total darkness from becoming

sick.

The owner of the veal farm had started his operation following the federal government's

dairy farm buy-out program several years ago. He attributed the high mortality rate of the calves to his inexperience in the business. Local officials did not file charges against the owner, who plans to phase out his veal-calf business.

While investigating the veal-farm deaths, Mr. Ribaudo was asked to assist local and state officials on a pig farm cruelty case.

At the "Hog Heaven" swine farm in Highgate, Vt., authorities discovered 21 dead pigs among 139 living in overcrowded pens. Many animals were eating the carcasses of dead animals. One pig with a broken leg had to be euthanized.

Mr. Ribaudo photographed both live and dead animals as evidence in the cruelty case

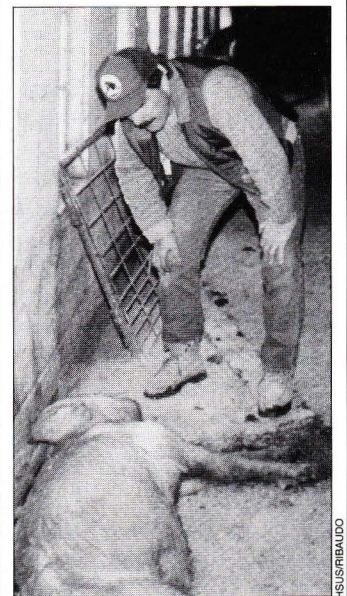
brought against owner John Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds was charged with twenty-one counts of cruelty for letting his pigs starve to death. Mr. Reynolds, too, plans to close his operation.

USING OUR PULL

Oxen, horse, and pony-pulling contests are the subject of an ongoing investigation by the New England Regional Office. Working in cooperation with humane society agents, state officials, veterinarians, and informants throughout New England, the regional staff has documented serious problems that have been addressed by legislators and state fair leaders in all six New England states.

The HSUS's New England Regional Office offers a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who cruelly treats any animal in pulling contests. ■



Frank Ribaudo investigates a swine cruelty case in Vermont.

MOUNTAINEER VICTORY

After seven years of effort, animal protectionists in West Virginia have succeeded in making pound seizure illegal.

They prevailed against opposition from West Virginia University and a lobbying group called the Animal Research Information Committee. The committee had its own bill introduced which would have made pound seizure mandatory. That bill died quickly when public opinion showed overwhelming opposition to the release of pets for research.

The Great Lakes Regional Office, in conjunction with the Kanawha Action for Animals and other groups, worked intensely on passage of the legislation.

The Great Lakes Regional Office salutes all the many individuals who worked so hard to make West Virginia the fourteenth state to halt pound seizure!

SHELTER TOURS CONTINUE

The Great Lakes staff continues to monitor shelters in the region. Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch has seen, firsthand, counties that have run out of funds and attempted to ignore their legally mandated duties to provide animal-control services as well as those operating shelters that are impeccably clean and comfortable for the animals. She has met with commissioners and auditors, appeared on live radio talk shows, and spoken to boards of



The Great Lakes staff monitors conditions such as those in Jackson County, Ohio, where this building serves as the shelter.

directors. Conditions have been improved or kept acceptable in areas where citizens take an active role in animal-control services.

REWARDS IN INDIANA

We gained another victory when the Indiana legislature failed to pass legislation that would have legalized gambling on greyhound racing. Hoosiers wrote letters, placed ads in newspapers, and attended a protest at the state capitol. Past experience in other states has shown the issue will again surface, and Hoosiers are already

making plans for future legislative battles on the issue.

RECORD ATTENDANCE

More than one hundred cruelty investigators attended the workshop, "A Professional Approach to More Effective Cruelty Investigations," on May 10 and 11 in Bowling Green, Ohio. Sponsored jointly by the Great Lakes Regional Office and the Bowling Green Police Division, the workshop stressed the importance of instruction and education for offenders, saving prosecution as a last resort. ■



The HSUS's Pat Parkes (left) and Michigan's Ann Sullivan join Dr. Dale Griffith at the cruelty investigator's workshop in May.

HUMANE CHOICES

On March 18 and 19, in Corpus Christi, Tex., the second annual Humane Education Symposium was held by The HSUS and the Gulf States Humane Educators Association. Its theme was life-style choices to help animals. HSUS staff members Bob Baker, Patty Finch, and board member Amy Freeman Lee were among the speakers. If you missed this year's event, mark your calendar for the last weekend in May 1990 for Tulsa, Ok.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Arkansans For Animals succeeded in promoting bills in Arkansas to outlaw bear wrestling and make dogfighting a felony. In Oklahoma, dog racing has been defeated, and a vicious dog bill, supported by The HSUS, was passed.

In Texas, Gulf States Regional Program Coordinator James Noe testified in favor of a mandatory spay/neuter bill, H.B. 100, for animals released for adoption by shelters. Other supporters included the Texas Humane Network.

SPREADING THE WORD

James Noe wrote to 317 shelters giving them guidance on permits for sodium pentobarbital euthanasia. Many shelters still use T-61 and other cruel methods for euthanasia; we hope to educate them in more humane methods. ■